

Friends of the Lawrence Nature Center meeting, November 11, 2009.

Attendance: Rick Dutko, Pepper Evans, Lisa Ilaria, Chris Altomari, Sue Hermann, Mike Erdie, Steve Groeger, Helen Dutko, Linda Burroughs, Linda Townsend, Amy Hnasko, Madeline Price, Anne Demarais, Teresita Bastides-Heron, John Gaskins, Dave Bosted, Larry Beaver.

Steve mentioned that 26 people have signed up to receive our email blasts. Anne will send notes to those who signed up at our various events, letting them know about the sign up.

Rick began the meeting with a brief history of the nature center and our group for the new members.

We then discussed whether we should be a non-profit organization (a 501c3) or not and whether we could function under the umbrella of another non-profit. During the evening we sketched out ideas for committees to do jobs and Teresita, John and Pepper volunteered to research information on non-profits.

Rick spoke of Washington Crossing Audubon Society (WCAS) grants we have received that have outstanding balances. One grant specifies use for trails and native plants. Rick suggested hiring Michael Van Clef for recommendations for the planting program (deer resistant, etc.). Chris recommended local Aztec Graphics for signage. Chris and Linda T volunteered to serve on this committee.

Rick could not locate the Treasurer's report from Anne that included the WCAS funds being held by the Friends of the Lawrence Greenway for the Lawrence Nature Center but estimated it to be about \$6,000. Rick sent a revised proposal for the expenditure of these funds to the WCAS last week.

[Rick found the Treasurer's report after the meeting: 2004 WCAS Deck Grant balance \$2,422.70; 2006 WCAS Trails & Native Plant Garden balance \$3,748.24; and 2007 Lawrence Township Community Foundation balance \$4,379.31.]

Steve G. noted that the township has not received the bequest of \$10,000 from the family of Mary Jane Trimmer to date. Steve will provide a report on the money held by the Township at our next meeting.

Re trails, Teresita spoke of the desirability of trash cans. Steve mentioned upkeep, and that the Meadowbrook playing field is a school (not a township) park. Linda T said that the trail trash problem is actually better these days. Madeline said that the SAVE group could schedule for trash pickup. She and John volunteered for a trail committee.

Chris offered to serve on the committee dealing with publicity and website updates.

Amy, Sue, Rick, Teresita and Linda T will work on an Exhibits and Education committee. Teresita and Chris will work on a committee dealing with our calendar, and program offerings.

Anne suggested considering a brick patio instead of a deck, with the possibility of using bricks/pavers as a fundraising opportunity.

Upcoming events include:

Thursday, November 12. Rutgers students will present their design to enhance the greater Eldridge Park neighborhood at the Lawrence Road Firehouse, 7:30. Sponsored by GEPNA (Great Eldridge Park Neighborhood Association).

Saturday, November 14. Environment Fest at the Library, 12-4 pm

Saturday, November 14. Lighting up the Community by The Community, begins at 10 at Carriage Park.

Saturday, November 14. Electronic Waste collected at the Wachovia Center.

Sunday, December 20. The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (Drexel Woods time TBA).

January a bird workshop by Teresita and Rick. Date TBA.